

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for performing a surgical anastomosis, comprising:

a tubular sleeve defining an axial lumen therethrough;

a positioning tube defining an axial lumen therethrough, the positioning tube being configured and adapted to be slidably received within the axial lumen of the tubular sleeve;

an expansion assembly having a tubular body and an expandable tip operatively coupled to a distal end thereof, the expandable tip having a retracted position in which the expandable tip can pass through the axial lumen of the positioning tube and an expanded position in which the expandable tip can not pass through the axial lumen of the positioning tube; and

an anchoring assembly including:

a flange member having an expandable annular body and a head portion and an expandable annular body integrally coupled to the head portion, expandable annular body and protruding laterally therefrom, the annular body defining a passage, the passage extending through the head portion and the annular body, the head portion defining proximal and distal end surfaces, the proximal end surface including a plurality of protuberances formed thereon and extending proximally therefrom; and

a locking member configured and dimensioned to be received in the passage of the annular body, the locking member defining a lumen therethrough;

wherein movement of the locking member into the passage of the annular body induces movement of the annular body of the flange member between an unexpanded configuration and a radially expanded configuration, wherein the locking member is maintained in the annular body to maintain the annular body in the expanded configuration.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the expandable tip of the expansion assembly is a balloon.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the annular body of the anchoring assembly comprises at least a pair of diametrically opposed longitudinal slots formed therein, wherein the annular body is expandable along the pair of longitudinal slots.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the annular body of the anchoring assembly includes a plurality of protuberances formed on an outer surface thereof.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the annular body of the anchoring assembly has a first radius when not expanded and a second radius, larger than the first radius, when expanded.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the head portion of the flange member has a radius which is larger than the first radius of the annular body.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the locking member comprises a cylindrical body having a distal end portion, wherein the cylindrical body has a radius which is larger than the first radius of the annular body and wherein the distal end portion of the cylindrical body tapers down to a radius which is smaller than the first radius of the annular body.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the longitudinal slots extend through a proximal terminal end of the annular body and terminate at a distance spaced from the head portion.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the head portion includes a tapered distal surface.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the annular body of the anchoring assembly comprises a plurality of longitudinal slots formed therein.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the annular body of the anchoring assembly comprises at least one helical slot extending through the terminal end of the annular body.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a proximal end of the locking member is configured and adapted to engage a distal end of the positioning tube.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the head portion of the flange member has a radius which is larger than a radius of the lumen of the tubular sleeve.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the head portion of the flange member has a radius which is smaller than an inner radius of the lumen of the tubular sleeve.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the anchoring assembly is made from a bio-absorbable material.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for performing a surgical anastomosis, comprising the steps of:

providing an apparatus for performing the surgical anastomosis, the apparatus comprising:

a tubular sleeve defining an axial lumen therethrough;

a positioning tube defining an axial lumen therethrough, the positioning tube being configured and adapted to be slidably received within the axial lumen of the tubular sleeve;

an expansion assembly having a tubular body and an expandable tip operatively coupled to a distal end thereof, the expandable tip having a retracted position in which the expandable tip can pass through the axial lumen of the positioning tube and an expanded position in which the expandable tip can not pass through the axial lumen of the positioning tube; and

an anchoring assembly including:

a flange member having an expandable annular body and a head portion ~~and an expandable annular body~~ integrally coupled to the head portion, expandable annular body and protruding laterally therefrom, the annular body defining a passage, the passage extending through

the head portion and the annular body, the head portion defining proximal and distal end surfaces,
the proximal end surface including a plurality of protuberances formed thereon and extending
proximally therefrom; and

a locking member arranged to be received in the passage of the flange member, the locking member defining a lumen therethrough, the locking member being configured and adapted to radially deflect the expandable annular body upon insertion of the locking member within the passage of the annular body and to maintain the expandable annular body in the radially deflected configuration when the locking member is received in the passage of the flange member;

passing the apparatus through a body lumen and through an opening in a body vessel such that the head portion of the flange member of the anchoring assembly is positioned within the body vessel;

advancing the expansion assembly through the positioning tube such that the expandable tip is within the body vessel;

expanding the expandable tip within the body vessel;

withdrawing the tubular body of the expansion assembly to press the protuberances formed on the proximal end surface of the head portion of the flange member of the anchoring assembly against the body vessel and to approximate the body vessel with the body lumen until the annular body of the flange member of the anchoring assembly is positioned within a distal end of the body lumen;

advancing the positioning tube through the tubular body to drive and secure the discrete locking member of the anchoring assembly into the annular body of the flange member and to deflect the annular body radially outward against the inner surface of the body lumen.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of retracting the expandable tip of the expansion assembly.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of withdrawing the tubular body, the positioning tube and the expansion assembly from the body lumen.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the surgical anastomosis is a radical prostatectomy.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein the radical prostatectomy includes the steps of removing the prostate gland from between the urethra and the bladder to define a urethral stump and a bladder neck.

22. (Currently Amended) An anchoring assembly for use in a surgical anastomosis procedure, comprising:

a flange member having a head portion and an expandable annular body integrally coupled to the head portion, the head portion protruding laterally from the expandable annular body and defining proximal and distal end surfaces, the proximal end surface including a plurality of protuberances formed thereon and extending proximally therefrom, the flange member defining a passage extending through the head portion and the annular body; and

a locking member discrete and separable from the flange member, the locking member defining a lumen therethrough, the locking member being configured and adapted to radially deflect the expandable annular body upon maintained engagement of the locking member within the passage of the annular body such that the locking member is secured within the passage of the annular body.

23. (Original) The anchoring assembly according to claim 22, wherein the annular body of the anchoring assembly comprises at least a pair of diametrically opposed longitudinal slots formed therein, wherein the annular body is expandable along the pair of longitudinal slots.

24. (Original) The anchoring assembly according to claim 23, wherein the annular body of the anchoring assembly has a first radius when not expanded and a second radius, larger than the first radius, when expanded.

25. (Original) The anchoring assembly according to claim 24, wherein the head portion of the flange member has a radius which is larger than the first radius of the annular body.

26. (Original) The anchoring assembly according to claim 25, wherein the locking member comprises a cylindrical body having a distal end portion, wherein the cylindrical body has a radius which is larger than the first radius of the annular body and wherein the distal end portion of the cylindrical body tapers down to a radius which is smaller than the first radius of the annular body.

27. (Original) The anchoring assembly according to claim 26, wherein the longitudinal slots extend through a proximal end of the annular body and terminate at a distance spaced from the head portion.